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Agenda item 54 (e)

Sustainable development: implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Tamar **Tchitanava** (Georgia)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 54 (see A/62/419, para. 2). Action on sub-item (e) was taken at the 23rd and 31st meetings, on 6 November and 5 December 2007. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/62/SR.23 and 31).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/62/L.17 and A/C.2/62/L.48

2. At the 23rd meeting, on 6 November, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa" (A/C.2/62/L.17), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 58/211 of 23 December 2003, 61/202 of 20 December 2006 and other resolutions relating to the implementation of the

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United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

"*Recalling also* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"*Reasserting its commitment* to promoting desertification control, eradicating extreme poverty, promoting sustainable development in arid areas and improving the lives of affected populations,

"*Determined* to maintain and to boost the spirit of international solidarity generated by the designation of the year 2006 as the International Year of Deserts and Desertification,

"*Reaffirming* that desertification and drought are problems of a global dimension in that they affect all regions in the world,

"*Emphasizing* that desertification seriously threatens the ability of developing countries to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Concerned* about the negative impacts of desertification, land degradation and climate change on each other,

"*Reaffirming* the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'), which recognizes the Convention as one of the tools for poverty eradication,

"*Recognizing* that timely and effective implementation of the Convention would help to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Recognizing also* the need to provide stable, adequate and predictable financial resources and technical support in order to ensure the full implementation of the Convention in an efficient and timely manner,

"*Welcoming* the decision of the eleventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development to consider, among others, the issue of desertification during its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions,

"*Expressing its deep appreciation* to the Government of Spain for hosting the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Madrid from 3 to 14 September 2007,

"*Expressing also its deep appreciation* to the Government of Argentina for hosting the fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention in Buenos Aires from 12 to 21 March 2007,

"*Welcoming* the offer made by the Government of Turkey to host the seventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention in Istanbul from 20 to 29 October 2008,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Reiterates its resolve* to support and strengthen the implementation of the Convention with a view to addressing causes of desertification and land degradation, as well as poverty resulting from land degradation, through, inter alia, the mobilization of adequate and predictable financial resources, technical

assistance, the transfer of technology and the enhancement of capacity-building in developing countries;

"3. *Welcomes* the decision of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme, taken at its twenty-fourth session, to declare the decade 2010-2020 as the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification;

"4. *Also welcomes* the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its eighth session, in its decision 3/COP.8, of the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018) and invites all parties, the secretariat of the Convention and other institutions and supporting bodies to cooperate and coordinate their activities for a successful implementation of the strategy;

"5. *Expresses its appreciation* for the financial contributions made by countries and other relevant stakeholders in support of the activities of the Intersessional Intergovernmental Working Group on the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention;

"6. *Takes note* of the request made for an assessment of the Global Mechanism by the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations and looks forward to its findings;

"7. *Expresses its concern* that the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties did not agree on the budget for the biennium 2008-2009 and invites the Conference of the Parties at its first extraordinary session to be convened in New York on 26 November 2007 to adopt the proposed budget;

"8. *Urges* the international community, in particular developed countries, to provide financial and technical support to the secretariat and affected countries parties to strengthen national, regional and international efforts to fully implement the Convention, in accordance with decision 3/COP.8, containing the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention;

"9. *Takes note* of the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and further encourages continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities among the secretariats, while respecting their independent legal status;

"10. *Also takes note* of the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its eighth session to renew the mandate of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention as a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties;

"11. *Further takes note* of the December 2006 decision of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to invite the fourth Assembly of the Global Environment Facility to amend the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility so as to list the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification among the conventions for which the Facility plays the role of financial mechanism;

"12. *Urges* the Council of the Global Environment Facility to allocate adequate financial resources to the focal area on land degradation in the fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund;

"13. *Welcomes* the ongoing process of addressing the issue of adopting the euro as the budgetary currency of the Convention and in this regard requests the Secretary-General, taking into account the institutional linkage and related administrative arrangements between the Convention secretariat and the United Nations Secretariat, to facilitate the implementation of decisions of the Conference of the Parties related to the protection of the Convention's budget against negative effects of currency fluctuations, including in the context of the implementation of paragraph 4 of part II of General Assembly resolution 60/283 of 7 July 2006 on the replacement of the Integrated Management Information System with a next-generation enterprise resource planning system or other comparable system;

"14. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the Convention, in coordination with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, to actively prepare for and participate in the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development with a view to ensuring that the Convention core issues, particularly those relating to land degradation, drought and desertification, are duly considered in the context of sustainable development during the deliberations of the review session, with a view to ensuring a successful outcome from the entire cycle of the Commission;

"15. *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the multilateral environmental conventions, when setting the dates of their meetings, to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

"16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provision for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in his proposal for the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009;

"17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the sub-item entitled 'Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa';

"18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. At its 31st meeting, on 5 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa" (A/C.2/62/L.48), submitted by the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Melanie Santizo-Sandoval (Guatemala), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.17.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications (see A/C.2/62/SR.31).

5. Also at the same meeting, the Vice-Chairperson orally corrected operative paragraphs 3 and 13 of the draft resolution and the representative of Benin made a statement in her capacity as facilitator of the draft resolution (see A/C.2/62/SR.31).

6. At the same meeting, the Committee took action on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.48 as follows:

(a) The Committee retained operative paragraph 17 by a recorded vote of 161 to 2, with no abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Japan, United States of America.

Abstaining:

None.

(b) The Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.48 as a whole, as orally corrected (see para. 9).

7. Before the vote on operative paragraph 17, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of the United States of America and Japan; after the vote, a statement was made by the representative of Benin (see A/C.2/62/SR.31).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.48, draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.17 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/211 of 23 December 2003, 61/202 of 20 December 2006 and other resolutions relating to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1]

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2]

Reasserting its commitment to promoting desertification control, eradicating extreme poverty, promoting sustainable development in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas and improving the livelihoods of people affected by drought and/or desertification,

Determined to build upon the momentum and to boost the spirit of international solidarity generated by the designation of 2006 as the International Year of Deserts and Desertification,

Reaffirming the universal membership of the Convention and acknowledging that desertification and drought are problems of a global dimension in that they affect all regions in the world,

Emphasizing that desertification seriously threatens the ability of developing countries to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and recognizing that the timely and effective implementation of the Convention would help to achieve these goals,

Concerned about the negative impacts desertification, land degradation, loss of biological diversity and climate change have on each other, while emphasizing the potential benefits of complementarities in addressing these problems in a mutually supportive manner,

Reaffirming the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[3] which recognizes the Convention as one of the tools for poverty eradication,

Recognizing the need to provide the secretariat of the Convention with stable, adequate and predictable resources in order to enable it to continue to discharge its responsibilities in an efficient and timely manner,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[2] See resolution 60/1.

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

Welcoming the decision of the eleventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development to consider, among others, the issue of desertification and drought during its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions,[4]

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Spain for hosting the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Madrid from 3 to 14 September 2007,

Expressing also its deep appreciation to the Government of Argentina for hosting the fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention in Buenos Aires from 12 to 21 March 2007,

Welcoming the offer made by the Government of Turkey to host the seventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention in conjunction with the special intersessional session of the Committee for Science and Technology, in Istanbul, from 20 to 29 October 2008,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;[5]

2. *Reaffirms its resolve* to support and strengthen the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa[1] with a view to addressing causes of desertification and land degradation, as well as poverty resulting from land degradation, through, inter alia, the mobilization of adequate and predictable financial resources, the transfer of technology and capacity-building at all levels;

3. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its eighth session, in its decision 3/COP.8, of the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018),[6] invites all parties, the secretariat of the Convention and other institutions and supporting bodies to cooperate and coordinate their activities for a successful implementation of the strategy and also invites all Parties to report on the progress made in the implementation of the Strategy;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* for the financial contributions made by Member States and other relevant stakeholders in support of the activities of the Intersessional Intergovernmental Working Group on the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention;

5. *Notes* the request made for an assessment of the Global Mechanism by the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations and looks forward to its findings;[7]

6. *Reiterates its call upon* Governments, where appropriate, in collaboration with relevant multilateral organizations, including the Global Environment Facility implementation agencies, to integrate desertification into their plans and strategies for sustainable development;

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[4] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 9* (E/2003/29), chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution 1.

[5] A/62/276, annex II.

[6] A/C.2/62/7, annex.

[7] Ibid., sect. F, para. 27.

7. *Invites* developed countries parties to the Convention and other Governments, multilateral organizations, the private sector and other relevant organizations to make resources available to affected developing countries for the implementation of the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention;

8. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of the Secretariat to continue its administrative renewal and reform and to streamline its functions in order to fully implement the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit and bring them into line with the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention;

9. *Invites* the States parties to the Convention to provide the new Executive Secretary of the Convention with full support in the fulfilment of his mandate and in promoting the implementation of the Convention;

10. *Notes* the ongoing work of the joint liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[8] the Convention on Biological Diversity[9] and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and further encourages continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities in the work of the secretariats, while respecting their independent legal status;

11. *Also notes* the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its eighth session to renew the mandate of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention as a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties;[10]

12. *Further notes* the December 2006 decision of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to invite the fourth Assembly of the Facility to amend the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility so as to list the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification among the conventions for which the Facility plays the role of financial mechanism;[11]

13. *Recalls* the fourth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund,[12] stresses the importance of the fulfilment of the commitments made and emphasizes in this regard the need to continue to allocate adequate financial resources to the focal area of land degradation;

14. *Welcomes* the ongoing process of addressing the issue of adopting the euro as the budgetary and accounting currency of the Convention, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General, taking into account the institutional linkage and related administrative arrangements between the Convention secretariat and the United Nations Secretariat, to facilitate the implementation of decisions of the Conference of the Parties related to the protection of the Convention budget against negative effects of currency fluctuations;

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[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[9] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[10] ICCD/COP(8)/16/Add.1, decision 10/COP.8.

[11] Global Environment Facility, document GEF/C.30/7. Available from www.gefweb.org.

[12] Global Environment Facility, document GEF/A.3/6. Available from www.gefweb.org.

15. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the Convention, in coordination with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, to actively prepare for and participate in the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development with a view to ensuring that the Convention core issues, in particular those relating to land degradation, drought and desertification, are duly considered in the context of sustainable development during the deliberations of the review session, with a view to ensuring a successful outcome from the entire cycle of the Commission;

16. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, when setting the dates of its meetings, to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development so as to help ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provision for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in his proposal for the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa";

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including a report on the implementation of the Convention, to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session.

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Sustainable development: Convention on Biological Diversity

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Tamar **Tchitanava** (Georgia)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 54 (see A/62/419, para. 2). Action on sub-item (f) was taken at the 21st and 31st meetings, on 5 November and 5 December 2007. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/62/SR.21 and 31).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/62/L.15 and A/C.2/62/L.45

2. At the 21st meeting, on 5 November, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity" (A/C.2/62/L.15), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 55/201 of 20 December 2000, 56/197 of 21 December 2001, 57/253 and 57/260 of 20 December 2002, 58/212 of 23 December 2003, 59/236 of 22 December 2004, 60/202 of 22 December 2005 and 61/204 of 20 December 2006,

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"*Recalling also* its resolution 61/203 of 20 December 2006 on the International Year of Biodiversity, 2010,

"*Reiterating* that the Convention on Biological Diversity is the key international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources,

"*Noting* that one hundred and eighty-nine States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Convention,

"*Recalling* the commitments of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to pursue a more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and the achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity, which will require action at all levels, including the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries,

"*Concerned* by the continued loss of biological diversity, and acknowledging that an unprecedented effort would be needed to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction in the rate of loss of biological diversity,

"*Reaffirming* the need to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, as stipulated in the Convention on Biological Diversity,

"*Noting* the contribution that South-South cooperation can make in the area of biological diversity,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Urges* the countries that have not yet done so to ratify or to accede to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

"3. *Urges* the parties to the Convention that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to consider doing so;

"4. *Urges* developed countries parties to the Convention to contribute with additional resources to the relevant trust funds of the Convention, in particular so as to enhance the full participation of the developing countries parties in all of its activities, taking into account geographical balance;

"5. *Takes note* of the Curitiba Declaration on Cities and Biodiversity, adopted on 28 March 2007 in Curitiba, Brazil;

"6. *Urges* all Member States to fulfil their commitments to significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010 and emphasizes that achieving this target requires an appropriate focus on the loss of biodiversity in their relevant policies and programmes and would not be possible without capacity-building, access to and transfer of technologies and the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries, including through the Global Environment Facility;

"7. *Notes* the establishment of the Heads of Agency Task Force on the 2010 Biodiversity Target, as well as the convening of the first meeting of the chairs of the scientific advisory bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions

and the Rio Conventions aimed at enhancing scientific and technical collaboration for achieving the 2010 biodiversity target;

"8. *Reaffirms* the importance of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, to be held in Bonn, Germany, from 12 to 16 May 2008, and the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Bonn, from 19 to 30 May 2008;

"9. *Stresses* the importance of finalizing the negotiations on the international regime on access and benefit-sharing within the framework of the Convention, and urges parties to make every effort to complete negotiations at the earliest and no later than 2010;

"10. *Reaffirms* the commitment, subject to national legislation, to respect, preserve and maintain the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization;

"11. *Stresses* the importance of private-sector engagement for implementation of the objectives of the Convention and the achievement of the 2010 target;

"12. *Takes note* of initiatives of developing countries for the enhanced implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

"13. *Invites* parties, other Governments and other relevant international organizations to make preparations to celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010;

"14. *Takes note* of the ongoing work of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats and officers of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and further encourages continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities among the secretariats, while respecting their independent legal status;

"15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including its Cartagena Protocol;

"16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development', the sub-item entitled 'Convention on Biological Diversity'."

3. At its 31st meeting, on 5 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity" (A/C.2/62/L.45), submitted by the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Melanie Santizo-Sandoval (Guatemala), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.15.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.45 (see para. 7).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.45, draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.15 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/201 of 20 December 2000, 56/197 of 21 December 2001, 57/253 and 57/260 of 20 December 2002, 58/212 of 23 December 2003, 59/236 of 22 December 2004, 60/202 of 22 December 2005 and 61/204 of 20 December 2006,

Recalling also its resolution 61/203 of 20 December 2006 on the International Year of Biodiversity, 2010,

Reiterating that the Convention on Biological Diversity[1] is the key international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources,

Noting that one hundred and eighty-nine States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Convention and that one hundred and forty-two States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,[2]

Recalling the commitments of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to pursue a more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and the achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity, which will require action at all levels, including the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries,

Concerned by the continued loss of biological diversity, and acknowledging that an unprecedented effort would be needed to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction in the rate of loss of biological diversity,

Noting the need for enhanced cooperation among the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[3] and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[4] (the "Rio Conventions"), while respecting their individual mandates, concerned by the negative impacts that loss of biodiversity, desertification, land degradation and climate change have on each other, and recognizing the potential benefits of complementarities in addressing these problems in a mutually supportive manner with a view to achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.
[2] Ibid., vol. 2226, No. 30619.
[3] Ibid., vol. 1954, No. 33480.
[4] Ibid., vol. 1771, No. 30822.

Acknowledging the contribution that the ongoing work of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, of the World Intellectual Property Organization, can make in enhancing the effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Noting the contribution that South-South cooperation can make in the area of biological diversity,

Taking note of the reports of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment,[5]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the work of the Convention;[6]

2. *Encourages* developed countries parties to the Convention[1] to contribute to the relevant trust funds of the Convention, in particular so as to enhance the full participation of the developing countries parties in all of its activities;

3. *Urges* all Member States to fulfil their commitments to significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010, and emphasizes that this will require an appropriate focus on the loss of biodiversity in their relevant policies and programmes and the continued provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries, including through the Global Environment Facility;

4. *Urges* parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to facilitate the transfer of technology for the effective implementation of the Convention in accordance with its provisions;

5. *Notes* the establishment of the Heads of Agencies Task Force on the 2010 Biodiversity Target, as well as the convening of the first meeting of the Chairs of the scientific advisory bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio Conventions aimed at enhancing scientific and technical collaboration for achieving the 2010 biodiversity target;

6. *Recognizes* the importance of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,[2] to be held in Bonn, Germany, from 12 to 16 May 2008, and the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Bonn, from 19 to 30 May 2008;

7. *Notes* the progress made in the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing towards elaborating and negotiating the international regime on access and benefit-sharing, stresses the importance of finalizing the negotiations on the international regime on access and benefit-sharing within the framework of the Convention, and urges parties to make every effort to complete negotiations at the earliest possible time, before the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in 2010;

8. *Takes note* of the establishment by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention of seven thematic programmes of work and welcomes the work initiated on cross-cutting issues;

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[5] Available from http://millenniumassessment.org.

[6] A/62/276, annex III.

9. *Reaffirms* the commitment, subject to national legislation, to respect, preserve and maintain the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization;

10. *Stresses* the importance of private-sector engagement for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention and the achievement of the 2010 target and invites businesses to align their policies and practices more explicitly with the objectives of the Convention, including, inter alia, through partnerships;

11. *Takes note* of initiatives for the enhanced implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular those that are promoted by developing countries;

12. *Invites* parties to the Convention, other Governments, relevant international organizations and other relevant stakeholders to make preparations to celebrate in 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity;

13. *Takes note* of the ongoing work of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[4] the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[3] and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and further encourages continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities among the secretariats, while respecting their independent legal status;

14. *Invites* the countries that have not yet done so to ratify or to accede to the Convention;

15. *Invites* countries to consider ratifying or acceding to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;[7]

16. *Invites* the parties to the Convention that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to consider doing so, reiterates the commitment of States parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to support its implementation and stresses that this will require the full support of parties and of relevant international organizations, in particular with regard to the provision of assistance to developing countries in capacity-building for biosafety;

17. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

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[7] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the Conference of FAO, Thirty-first Session, Rome, 2-13 November 2001* (C 2001/REP), appendix D.

United Nations A/62/419/Add.7

General Assembly

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Sixty-second session
Agenda item 54 (g)

Sustainable development: report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-fourth session

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Tamar **Tchitanava** (Georgia)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 54 (see A/62/419, para. 2). Action on sub-item (g) was taken at the 21st and 30th meetings, on 5 and 30 November 2007. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/62/SR.21 and 30).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/62/L.14 and A/C.2/62/L.39

2. At the 21st meeting, on 5 November, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-fourth session" (A/C.2/62/L.14), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 53/242 of 28 July 1999, 56/193 of 21 December 2001, 57/251 of 20 December 2002, 58/209 of 23 December 2003, 59/226 of 22 December 2004, 60/189 of 22 December 2005 and 61/205 of 20 December 2006,

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in 10 parts, under the symbol A/62/419 and Add.1-9.

"*Recalling also* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"*Recognizing* the need for more efficient environmental activities in the United Nations system, and noting the need to consider possible options to address this need,

"*Taking into account* Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),

"*Reaffirming* the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the principal body within the United Nations system in the field of environment, which should take into account, within its mandate, the sustainable development needs of developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition,

"*Emphasizing* that capacity-building and technology support for developing countries in environment-related fields are important components of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme,

"*Recognizing* the need for the full implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building of the United Nations Environment Programme by providing the requisite financial, technical and other resources,

"*Welcoming* the proposal made by the Government of Egypt to establish an international centre for judicial capacity-building in environmental law in Cairo,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its twenty-fourth session and the decisions contained therein;

"2. *Declares* the decade 2010-2020 as the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification, based on the recommendation of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme during its twenty-fourth session;

"3. *Expresses concern* over the lack of progress in the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building of the United Nations Environment Programme, and, in this regard, calls upon Governments and other stakeholders in a position to do so to provide the necessary funding and technical assistance and also calls upon the United Nations Environment Programme to continue its efforts to fully implement the Bali Strategic Plan through strengthened cooperation with other stakeholders, based on their comparative advantages;

"4. *Recognizes* the progress made so far on the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, particularly through its Quick Start Programme, and welcomes in this regard the decision taken by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme to establish an ad hoc open-ended working group of Governments, regional economic integration organizations and stakeholder representatives to review options for enhanced voluntary measures;

"5. *Emphasizes* the need to further enhance coordination and cooperation among the relevant United Nations organizations in the promotion of the environmental dimension of sustainable development, and welcomes the continued active participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the United Nations Development Group and the Environment Management Group;

"6. *Also emphasizes* the need for the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate, to further contribute to sustainable development programmes, the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation at all levels and to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, bearing in mind the mandate of the Commission;

"7. *Welcomes* the continued efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme in shifting emphasis from delivery of outputs to achievement of results within its budget and programme of work and also welcomes in this regard decision 24/9 of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum on the budget and programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme for the biennium 2008-2009;

"8. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme, as recommended by the intergovernmental consultation on strengthening the scientific base of the Programme, including through the provision of adequate financial resources;

"9. *Reiterates* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme, and, in accordance with resolution 2997 (XXVII), underlines the need to consider the adequate reflection of all administrative and management costs of the Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget;

"10. *Invites* Governments that are in a position to do so to increase their contributions to the Environment Fund;

"11. *Emphasizes* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of the United Nations Environment Programme, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to the Programme and to the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

"12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development', a sub-item entitled 'Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its tenth special session'."

3. At its 30th meeting, on 30 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-fourth session" (A/C.2/62/L.39), submitted by the Vice-Chairperson, Melanie Santizo-Sandoval (Guatemala), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.14.

4. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.39 (see A/C.2/62/SR.30).

5. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the Vice-Chairperson, Melanie Santizo-Sandoval (Guatemala), and the facilitator, Javad Amin-Mansour (Egypt) (see A/C.2/62/SR.30).

6. The Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.39 (see para. 8).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.39, draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.14 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-fourth session

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 53/242 of 28 July 1999, 56/193 of 21 December 2001, 57/251 of 20 December 2002, 58/209 of 23 December 2003, 59/226 of 22 December 2004, 60/189 of 22 December 2005 and 61/205 of 20 December 2006,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Recognizing the need for more efficient environmental activities in the United Nations system, and noting the need to consider possible options to address this need, including through the ongoing informal consultative process on the institutional framework for United Nations environmental activities,

Taking into account Agenda 21[2] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[3]

Reaffirming the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the principal body within the United Nations system in the field of environment, which should take into account, within its mandate, the sustainable development needs of developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition,

Emphasizing that capacity-building and technology support to developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, in environment-related fields are important components of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recognizing the need to accelerate implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,[4] including through the provision of additional financial resources for that purpose,

Noting the proposal made by Egypt to establish an international centre for judicial capacity-building in environmental law in Cairo,[5]

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[1] See resolution 60/1.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[4] UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex.

[5] See UNEP/GC/24/12, annex V.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-fourth session[6] and the decisions contained therein;[7]

2. *Notes* the publication of the fourth *Global Environment Outlook: Environment for Development* by the United Nations Environment Programme;[8]

3. *Decides* to declare the decade 2010-2020 as the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification, based on the recommendation of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its twenty-fourth session;[9]

4. *Notes* that the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its twenty-fourth session discussed all components of the recommendations on international environmental governance as contained in its decision SS.VII/1, and also notes the continued discussions scheduled for the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council;[10]

5. *Stresses* the need to further advance and fully implement the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,[4] in this regard calls upon Governments and other stakeholders in a position to do so to provide the necessary funding and technical assistance, and also calls upon the United Nations Environment Programme to continue its efforts to fully implement the Bali Strategic Plan through strengthened cooperation with other stakeholders, based on their comparative advantages;

6. *Recognizes* the progress made so far in the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,[11] particularly through its Quick Start Programme,[12] and invites Governments, regional economic integration organizations, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to engage actively and cooperate closely to support the Strategic Approach implementation activities of the United Nations Environment Programme, including the Quick Start Programme, including through providing adequate resources;

7. *Also recognizes* the global challenges posed by mercury and, in this regard, notes the decision by the Governing Council to establish an ad hoc open-ended working group of Governments, regional economic integration organizations and stakeholder representatives to review and assess options for enhanced voluntary measures and new or existing international legal instruments,[13] taking into account the terms of reference and the priorities set out in that decision, and urges

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[6] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/62/25).

[7] Ibid., annex I.

[8] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.III.D.19.

[9] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/62/25), annex I, decision 24/14; see also General Assembly resolution 61/185 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67.

[10] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/62/25).

[11] Report of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on the work of its first session (SAICM/ICCM.1/7), annexes I, II and III.

[12] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/62/25), annex I, decision 24/3.

[13] Ibid., decision 24/3, para. 28.

Governments and other stakeholders to continue and enhance their support of the United Nations Environment Programme mercury programme partnerships through the provision of technical and financial resources;

8. *Emphasizes* the need to further enhance coordination and cooperation among the relevant United Nations organizations in the promotion of the environmental dimension of sustainable development, and welcomes the continued active participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the United Nations Development Group and the Environment Management Group;

9. *Also emphasizes* the need for the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate, to further contribute to sustainable development programmes, the implementation of Agenda 21[2] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[3] at all levels, and to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, bearing in mind the mandate of the Commission;

10. *Welcomes* the continued efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme in shifting emphasis from delivery of outputs to achievement of results within its budget and programme of work, and also welcomes, in this regard, decision 24/9 of the Governing Council on the budget and programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme;[14]

11. *Notes* the request by the Governing Council to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to prepare, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, a medium-term strategy for the period 2010-2013;[15]

12. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme, as recommended by the intergovernmental consultation on strengthening the scientific base of the Programme, including the reinforcement of the scientific capacity of developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, in the area of protection of the environment, including through the provision of adequate financial resources;

13. *Notes* the ongoing consultations with a view to improving further the proposed Environment Watch strategy as an integral part of the wider strategic vision of the United Nations Environment Programme;[16]

14. *Reiterates* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme, and, in accordance with resolution 2997 (XXVII), underlines the need to consider the adequate reflection of all administrative and management costs of the Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget;

15. *Invites* Governments that are in a position to do so to increase their contributions to the Environment Fund;

16. *Emphasizes* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of the United Nations Environment Programme, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi

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[14] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/62/25), annex I.

[15] Ibid., decision 24/9, para. 13.

[16] Ibid., decision 24/1, sect. III.

under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to the Programme and to the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its tenth special session".

United Nations A/62/419/Add.7/Corr.1

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Sustainable development: report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-fourth session

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Tamar **Tchitanava** (Georgia)

Corrigendum

Paragraph 5 *should read*:

5. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the Vice-Chairperson, Melanie Santizo-Sandoval (Guatemala), and the facilitator, Javad Amin-Mansour (Islamic Republic of Iran) (see A/C.2/62/SR.30).

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Sixty-second session
Agenda item 54 (h)

Sustainable development: sustainable mountain development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Tamar **Tchitanava** (Georgia)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 54 (see A/62/419, para. 2). Action on sub-item (h) was taken at the 21st and 32nd meetings, on 5 November and 7 December 2007. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/62/SR.21 and 32).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/62/L.18 and A/C.2/62/L.18/Rev.1

2. At the 21st meeting, on 5 November, the representative of Switzerland, on behalf of Afghanistan, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Bhutan, Bolivia, Cameroon, Comoros, Costa Rica, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Georgia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Malawi, Montenegro, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Ukraine and the United Republic of Tanzania, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Sustainable mountain development" (A/C.2/62/L.18), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 53/24 of 10 November 1998, by which it proclaimed 2002 the International Year of Mountains,

"*Recalling also* its resolutions 55/189 of 20 December 2000, 57/245 of 20 December 2002, 58/216 of 23 December 2003 and 60/198 of 22 December 2005,

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued under the symbol A/62/419 (Parts I and II) and Add.1-9.

"*Reaffirming* chapter 13 of Agenda 21 and all relevant paragraphs of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'), in particular paragraph 42 thereof, as the overall policy frameworks for sustainable development in mountain regions,

"*Noting* the Bishkek Mountain Platform, the outcome document of the Bishkek Global Mountain Summit, held at Bishkek from 28 October to 1 November 2002, which was the concluding event of the International Year of Mountains,

"*Noting also* the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions ('Mountain Partnership'), launched during the World Summit on Sustainable Development, with benefits from the committed support of forty-eight countries, fifteen intergovernmental organizations and eighty-three organizations from major groups, as an important approach to addressing the various interrelated dimensions of sustainable development in mountain regions,

"*Recalling* the conclusions of the global meetings of the members of the Mountain Partnership, held respectively in Merano, Italy, on 5 and 6 October 2003, at the invitation of the Government of Italy, and in Cusco, Peru, on 28 and 29 October 2004, at the invitation of the Government of Peru,

"*Noting* the statement of the members of the Adelboden Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions (SARD-M), which met in Rome, from 1 to 3 October 2007,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled 'Sustainable mountain development';

"2. *Notes with appreciation* that a growing network of Governments, organizations, major groups and individuals around the world recognize the importance of the sustainable development of mountain regions for poverty eradication;

"3. *Recognizes* the global importance of mountains as the source of most of the Earth's fresh water, as repositories of rich biological diversity and other natural resources, including timber and minerals, as popular destinations for recreation and tourism and as areas of important cultural diversity, knowledge and heritage, all of which generate substantial positive economic externalities;

"4. *Underlines* that mountain regions offer a wealth of vital resources like water, timber, minerals and energy resources, particularly renewable energy resources, such as hydropower, wind and geothermal power;

"5. *Recognizes* that mountains provide early indications of global climate change through phenomena such as the retreat of glaciers and modifications of biological diversity;

"6. *Notes with concern* that populations in mountain regions are frequently among the poorest of a given country and that there remain key challenges to achieving sustainable mountain development, eradicating poverty in mountain regions and protecting mountain ecosystems;

"7. *Recognizes* the crucial role of sustainable mountain development in achieving the Millennium Development Goals;

"8. *Encourages* Governments to adopt a long-term vision and holistic approaches in strategies, and promote integrated approaches to policies for sustainable development in mountain regions;

"9. *Also encourages* Governments to give higher priority to mountain issues in national, regional and global policymaking, either through incorporating mountain-specific requirements in general sustainable development policies or through specific mountain policies;

"10. *Notes* that the growing demand for natural resources, including water, the consequences of erosion, deforestation and other forms of watershed degradation, and the occurrence of natural disasters, as well as increasing out-migration, the pressures of industry, transport, tourism, mining and agriculture and the consequences of global climate change are some of the key challenges in fragile mountain ecosystems to implementing sustainable development and eradicating poverty in mountains, consistent with the Millennium Development Goals;

"11. *Notes with concern* the accelerating melting of mountain glaciers, and stresses the need to undertake immediate actions to preserve the glaciers as major reservoirs of water in the world;

"12. *Underlines* the importance of enhancing the capacity of mountains to serve as natural carbon sinks through effective and sustainable forest management and the avoidance of deforestation, as well as the restoration of lost and degraded forest ecosystems of mountains;

"13. *Notes* that sustainable agriculture in mountain regions is important for the protection of the mountain environment and the promotion of the rural economy;

"14. *Expresses its deep concern* at the number and scale of disasters and their increasing impact in recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, in particular in mountain regions, especially those in developing countries;

"15. *Encourages* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to improve awareness, preparedness and infrastructure to cope with regularly occurring disasters in mountain regions, such as flash floods, including glacial lake outburst floods, as well as land slides, debris flow and earthquakes;

"16. *Encourages* the scientific community, national Governments and intergovernmental organizations to collaborate with mountain communities to jointly study and address the negative effects of global climate change on mountain environments and biological diversity, as well as the specific concerns of mountain communities, with a view to elaborating sustainable adaptation strategies to cope with the negative impacts of climate change;

"17. *Underlines* that action at the national level is a key factor in achieving progress in sustainable mountain development, welcomes its steady increase in recent years with a multitude of events, activities and initiatives,

and invites the international community to support the efforts of developing countries to develop and implement strategies and programmes, including, where required, enabling policies and laws, for the sustainable development of mountains, within the framework of national development plans;

"18. *Encourages* the further establishment of committees or similar multi-stakeholder institutional arrangements and mechanisms at the national and regional levels to enhance intersectoral coordination and collaboration for sustainable development in mountain regions;

"19. *Also encourages* the increased involvement of local authorities, as well as relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, in the development and implementation of programmes, including the promotion of land tenure, and activities related to sustainable development in mountains;

"20. *Underlines* the need for improved access to resources for women in mountain regions as well as the need to strengthen the role of women in mountain regions in decision-making processes that affect their communities, cultures and environments;

"21. *Encourages*, in this regard, Governments and intergovernmental organizations to integrate gender dimensions, inter alia gender disaggregated indicators, in their mountain development activities, programmes and projects;

"22. *Stresses* that indigenous cultures, traditions and knowledge, including in the field of medicine, are to be fully considered, respected and promoted in development policy and planning in mountain regions, and underlines the importance of promoting the full participation and involvement of mountain communities in decisions that affect them and of integrating indigenous knowledge, heritage and values in all development initiatives;

"23. *Recognizes* that many developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition need to be assisted in the formulation and implementation of national strategies and programmes for sustainable mountain development, through bilateral, multilateral and South-South cooperation, as well as through other forms of collaborative approach;

"24. *Notes* that funding for sustainable mountain development has become increasingly important, especially in view of the greater recognition of the global importance of mountains and the high level of extreme poverty, food insecurity and hardship facing mountain communities;

"25. *Invites* Governments, the United Nations system, the international financial institutions, the Global Environment Facility, all relevant United Nations conventions and their funding mechanisms, within their respective mandates, and all relevant stakeholders from civil society and the private sector to consider providing support, including through voluntary financial contributions, to local, national and international programmes and projects for sustainable development in mountain regions;

"26. *Underlines* the importance for sustainable development in mountains of exploring a wide range of funding sources, such as public-private partnerships, increased opportunities for microfinance, including microcredit and microinsurance, small housing loans, savings, education and health accounts, support for entrepreneurs seeking to develop small and medium-

sized businesses and, where appropriate, on a case-by-case basis, debt for sustainable development swaps;

"27. *Notes* that the awareness of the society as a whole needs to be raised in respect of the role of mountains as an important source of positive externalities like biodiversity, flood and soil protection, water supply and quality, carbon sequestration, avalanche protection, fire protection, cultural landscapes, outdoor recreation as well as cultural heritage;

"28. *Underlines* the importance of considering pro-poor national and international policies and national financing instruments, where appropriate, to compensate mountain populations and communities for the provision of such positive externalities;

"29. *Notes with satisfaction* the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity of a programme of work on mountain biological diversity, the overall purpose of which is the significant reduction of the loss of mountain biological diversity by 2010 at the global, regional and national levels, and its implementation, which aims at making a significant contribution to poverty eradication in mountain regions;

"30. *Recognizes* that mountain ranges are usually shared among several countries, and in this context encourages transboundary cooperation approaches, where the States concerned agree, to the sustainable development of mountain ranges and information-sharing in this regard;

"31. *Notes with appreciation*, in this context, the Convention on the Protection of the Alps, which promotes constructive new approaches to integrated, sustainable development of the Alps, including through its thematic protocols on spatial planning, mountain farming, conservation of nature and landscape, mountain forests, population and culture, tourism, soil protection, energy and transport, and welcomes the recent membership of the Convention in the 'Mountain Partnership';

"32. *Also notes with appreciation* the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, adopted and signed by the seven countries of the region to provide a framework for cooperation and multisectoral policy coordination, a platform for joint strategies for sustainable development and a forum for dialogue between all involved stakeholders;

"33. *Further notes with appreciation* the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, which promotes transboundary cooperation among eight regional member countries of the Himalaya Hindu Kush region to foster action and change for overcoming mountain peoples' economic, social and physical vulnerability;

"34. *Notes with appreciation* the contribution of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions (SARD-M) project and the Adelboden Group in promoting specific policies and appropriate institutions and processes for mountain regions, and the positive externalities they provide;

"35. *Stresses* the importance of capacity-building, institutional strengthening and educational programmes in order to foster sustainable mountain development at all levels and to enhance awareness of challenges to and best practices in sustainable development in mountain regions and the nature of relationships between highland and lowland areas;

"36. *Encourages* the development and implementation of global, regional and national communication programmes to build on the awareness and momentum for change created by the International Year of Mountains and the opportunity provided annually by International Mountain Day on 11 December;

"37. *Also encourages* Member States to collect and produce information and to establish databases devoted to mountains so as to capitalize on knowledge to support interdisciplinary research, programmes and projects and to improve decision-making and planning;

"38. *Further encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to further enhance their constructive efforts to strengthen inter-agency collaboration to achieve more effective implementation of relevant chapters of Agenda 21, including chapter 13, and paragraph 42 and other relevant paragraphs of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, taking into account the inter-agency group on mountains and the need for the further involvement of the United Nations system, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations University, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, as well as international financial institutions and other relevant international organizations;

"39. *Recognizes* the efforts of the Mountain Partnership implemented in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/61 of 25 July 2003, invites the international community and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to consider participating actively in the Mountain Partnership to increase its value added, and invites the Partnership secretariat to report on its activities and achievements to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixteenth session, in 2008, including in regard to the thematic issues of agriculture, rural development, land, drought and desertification;

"40. *Notes with appreciation* in this context the efforts of the Mountain Partnership to cooperate with existing multilateral instruments relevant to mountains, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and mountain-related regional instruments such as the Convention on the Protection of the Alps and the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians;

"41. *Takes note with appreciation* of the offer of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic to host a second Bishkek Global Mountain Summit in

October 2009, and of the invitation to Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders to take part in such a summit;

"42. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution, under a sub-item entitled 'Sustainable mountain development' of the item entitled 'Sustainable development'."

3. At its 32nd meeting, on 7 December, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Sustainable mountain development" (A/C.2/62/L.18/Rev.1), submitted by the representative of Switzerland, on behalf of Afghanistan, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Comoros, Costa Rica, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Malawi, Mexico, Montenegro, Nepal, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam. Subsequently, Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Israel, Madagascar, Nicaragua, Serbia, Sierra Leone and Slovakia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution (see A/C.2/62/SR.32).

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications (see A/C.2/62/SR.32).

5. Also at the 32nd meeting, the representative of Switzerland made a statement and orally corrected the draft resolution (see A/C.2/62/SR.32).

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.18/Rev.1, as orally corrected (see para. 7).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Sustainable mountain development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/24 of 10 November 1998, by which it proclaimed 2002 the International Year of Mountains,

Recalling also its resolutions 55/189 of 20 December 2000, 57/245 of 20 December 2002, 58/216 of 23 December 2003 and 60/198 of 22 December 2005,

Reaffirming chapter 13 of Agenda 21[1] and all relevant paragraphs of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[2] in particular paragraph 42 thereof, as the overall policy frameworks for sustainable development in mountain regions,

Noting the Bishkek Mountain Platform,[3] the outcome document of the Bishkek Global Mountain Summit, held in Bishkek from 28 October to 1 November 2002, which was the concluding event of the International Year of Mountains,

Noting also the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions ("Mountain Partnership"), launched during the World Summit on Sustainable Development, with benefits from the committed support of forty-eight countries, fifteen intergovernmental organizations and eighty-three organizations from major groups, as an important approach to addressing the various interrelated dimensions of sustainable development in mountain regions,

Noting further the conclusions of the global meetings of the members of the Mountain Partnership, held, respectively, in Merano, Italy, in October 2003 and in Cusco, Peru, in October 2004, and the first Andean Meeting of the Andean Initiative, held in San Miguel Tucuman, Argentina, in September 2007,

Noting the outcome of the meeting of the Adelboden Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions, which met in Rome from 1 to 3 October 2007,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

2. *Notes with appreciation* that a growing network of Governments, organizations, major groups and individuals around the world recognize the importance of the sustainable development of mountain regions for poverty eradication, and recognizes the global importance of mountains as the source of

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[3] A/C.2/57/7, annex.

[4] A/62/292.

most of the Earth's freshwater, as repositories of rich biological diversity and other natural resources, including timber and minerals, as providers of some sources of renewable energy, as popular destinations for recreation and tourism and as areas of important cultural diversity, knowledge and heritage, all of which generate positive, unaccounted economic benefits;

3. *Recognizes* that mountains provide indications of global climate change through phenomena such as modifications of biological diversity, the retreat of mountain glaciers and changes in seasonal runoff that may impact major sources of freshwater in the world, and stresses the need to undertake actions to minimize the negative effects of these phenomena;

4. *Recognizes* that sustainable mountain development is a key component in achieving the Millennium Development Goals in many regions of the world;

5. *Notes with concern* that there remain key challenges to achieving sustainable development, eradicating poverty in mountain regions and protecting mountain ecosystems, and that populations in mountain regions are frequently among the poorest in a given country;

6. *Encourages* Governments to adopt a long-term vision and holistic approaches in their sustainable development strategies, and to promote integrated approaches to policies related to sustainable development in mountain regions;

7. *Also encourages* Governments to integrate mountain sustainable development in national, regional and global policymaking and development strategies, including through incorporating mountain-specific requirements in sustainable development policies or through specific mountain policies;

8. *Notes* that the growing demand for natural resources, including water, the consequences of erosion, deforestation and other forms of watershed degradation, the occurrence of natural disasters, as well as increasing out-migration, the pressures of industry, transport, tourism, mining, agriculture and the consequences of global climate change are some of the key challenges in fragile mountain ecosystems to implementing sustainable development and eradicating poverty in mountain regions, consistent with the Millennium Development Goals;

9. *Underlines* the importance of sustainable forest management, the avoidance of deforestation, as well as the restoration of lost and degraded forest ecosystems of mountains in order to enhance the role of mountains as natural carbon and water regulators;

10. *Notes* that sustainable agriculture in mountain regions is important for the protection of the mountain environment and the promotion of the regional economy;

11. *Expresses its deep concern* at the number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact in recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, in particular in mountain regions, especially those in developing countries, and urges the international community to take concrete steps to support national and regional efforts to ensure the sustainable development of mountains;

12. *Encourages* Governments, the international community and other relevant stakeholders to improve the awareness, preparedness and infrastructure to cope with the increasing impact of disasters in mountain regions, such as flash floods, including glacial lake outburst floods, as well as landslides, debris flow and earthquakes;

13. *Encourages* Governments, with the collaboration of the scientific community, mountain communities and intergovernmental organizations, where appropriate, to study, with a view to promoting sustainable mountain development, the specific concerns of mountain communities, including the effects of global climate change on mountain environments and biological diversity, in order to elaborate sustainable adaptation strategies to cope with the adverse effects of climate change;

14. *Underlines* the fact that action at the national level is a key factor in achieving progress in sustainable mountain development, welcomes its steady increase in recent years with a multitude of events, activities and initiatives, and invites the international community to support the efforts of developing countries to develop and implement strategies and programmes, including, where required, enabling policies and laws for the sustainable development of mountains, within the framework of national development plans;

15. *Encourages* the further establishment of committees or similar multi-stakeholder institutional arrangements and mechanisms at the national and regional levels, where appropriate, to enhance intersectoral coordination and collaboration for sustainable development in mountain regions;

16. *Also encourages* the increased involvement of local authorities, as well as other relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, in the development and implementation of programmes, land-use planning and land tenure arrangements, and activities related to sustainable development in mountains;

17. *Underlines* the need for improved access to resources, including land, for women in mountain regions as well as the need to strengthen the role of women in mountain regions in decision-making processes that affect their communities, cultures and environments;

18. *Encourages*, in this regard, Governments and intergovernmental organizations to integrate the gender dimension, including, inter alia, gender disaggregated indicators, in mountain development activities, programmes and projects;

19. *Stresses* that indigenous cultures, traditions and knowledge, including in the field of medicine, are to be fully considered, respected and promoted in development policy and planning in mountain regions, and underlines the importance of promoting the full participation and involvement of mountain communities in decisions that affect them and of integrating indigenous knowledge, heritage and values in all development initiatives;

20. *Underscores* the need to take into account relevant articles of the Convention on Biological Diversity;[5]

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

21. *Recognizes* that many developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition need to be assisted in the formulation and implementation of national strategies and programmes for sustainable mountain development, through bilateral, multilateral and South-South cooperation, as well as through other forms of collaborative approaches;

22. *Notes* that funding for sustainable mountain development has become increasingly important, especially in view of the greater recognition of the global importance of mountains and the high level of extreme poverty, food insecurity and hardship facing mountain communities;

23. *Invites* Governments, the United Nations system, the international financial institutions, the Global Environment Facility, all relevant United Nations conventions and their funding mechanisms, within their respective mandates, and all relevant stakeholders from civil society and the private sector to consider providing support, including through voluntary financial contributions, to local, national and international programmes and projects for sustainable development in mountain regions, particularly in developing countries;

24. *Underlines* the importance for sustainable development in mountains of exploring a wide range of funding sources, such as public-private partnerships, increased opportunities for microfinance, including microcredit and microinsurance, small housing loans, savings, education and health accounts, and support for entrepreneurs seeking to develop small- and medium-sized businesses and, where appropriate, on a case-by-case basis, debt for sustainable development swaps;

25. *Notes* that public awareness needs to be raised with respect to the positive and unaccounted economic benefits that mountains provide, and underlines the importance of enhancing the sustainability of ecosystems that provide essential resources and services for human well-being and economic activity and of developing innovative means of financing for their protection;

26. *Notes with satisfaction* the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity of a programme of work on mountain biological diversity, the overall purpose of which is the significant reduction of the loss of mountain biological diversity by 2010 at the global, regional and national levels, and its implementation, which aims at making a significant contribution to poverty eradication in mountain regions;

27. *Recognizes* that mountain ranges are usually shared among several countries, and in this context encourages transboundary cooperation approaches, where the States concerned agree, to the sustainable development of mountain ranges and information-sharing in this regard;

28. *Notes with appreciation*, in this context, the Convention on the Protection of the Alps,[6] which promotes constructive new approaches to integrated, sustainable development of the Alps, including through its thematic protocols on spatial planning, mountain farming, conservation of nature and landscape, mountain forests, tourism, soil protection, energy and transport, as well as its Declaration on Population and Culture;

[6] Ibid., vol. 1917, No. 32724.

29. *Also notes with appreciation* the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians,[7] adopted and signed by the seven countries of the region to provide a framework for cooperation and multisectoral policy coordination, a platform for joint strategies for sustainable development and a forum for dialogue between all involved stakeholders;

30. *Further notes with appreciation* the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, which promotes transboundary cooperation among eight regional member countries of the Himalaya Hindu Kush region to foster action and change for overcoming mountain peoples' economic, social and physical vulnerability;

31. *Notes with appreciation* the contribution of the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions project of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the statement of the Adelboden Group in promoting specific policies, appropriate institutions and processes for mountain regions, and the positive, unaccounted economic benefits they provide;

32. *Stresses* the importance of building capacity, strengthening institutions and promoting educational programmes in order to foster sustainable mountain development at all levels and to enhance awareness of challenges to and best practices in sustainable development in mountain regions and in the nature of relationships between highland and lowland areas;

33. *Encourages* the development and implementation of global, regional and national communication programmes to build on the awareness and momentum for change created by the International Year of Mountains in 2002 and the opportunity provided annually by International Mountain Day on 11 December;

34. *Also encourages* Member States to collect and produce information and to establish databases devoted to mountains so as to capitalize on knowledge to support interdisciplinary research, programmes and projects and to improve decision-making and planning;

35. *Further encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to further enhance their constructive efforts to strengthen inter-agency collaboration to achieve more effective implementation of the relevant chapters of Agenda 21,[1] including chapter 13, and paragraph 42 and other relevant paragraphs of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[2] taking into account the efforts of the Inter-Agency Group on Mountains and the need for the further involvement of the United Nations system, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations University, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, as well as international financial institutions and other relevant international organizations;

36. *Recognizes* the efforts of the Mountain Partnership implemented in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/61 of 25 July 2003, invites the international community and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to consider participating actively in the Mountain Partnership to increase its value added, and invites the Partnership secretariat to

[7] Available from www.carpathianconvention.org/text.htm.

report on its activities and achievements to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixteenth session in 2008, including in regard to the thematic issues of agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa;

37. *Notes with appreciation* in this context the efforts of the Mountain Partnership to cooperate with existing multilateral instruments relevant to mountains, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[8] the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[9] the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and mountain-related regional instruments such as the Convention on the Protection of the Alps and the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians;

38. *Takes note with appreciation* of the offer of the Government of Kyrgyzstan to host a second Bishkek Global Mountain Summit in October 2009, and of the invitation to Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders to take part in such a summit;

39. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution, under a sub-item entitled "Sustainable mountain development" of the item entitled "Sustainable development".

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[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[9] Ibid., vol. 1771, No. 30822.

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Sustainable development: promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Tamar **Tchitanava** (Georgia)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 54 (see A/62/419, para. 2). Action on sub-item (i) was taken at the 23rd and 31st meetings, on 6 November and 5 December 2007. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/62/SR.23 and 31).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/62/L.19 and A/C.2/62/L.44

2. At the 23rd meeting, on 6 November 2007, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme" (A/C.2/62/L.19), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 53/7 of 16 October 1998, 54/215 of 22 December 1999, 55/205 of 20 December 2000, 56/200 of 21 December 2001, 58/210 of 23 December 2003 and 60/199 of 22 December 2005 on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005,

"*Recalling also* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued under the symbol A/62/419 (Parts I and II) and Add.1-9.

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"*Noting* that the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 made a contribution to raising awareness of the increased role that new and renewable sources of energy can play in the global energy supply,

"*Reiterating* the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and of Agenda 21, and recalling the recommendations and conclusions contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation') concerning energy for sustainable development,

"*Welcoming* initiatives that aim to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services for sustainable development in order to contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Emphasizing* that the increased use and promotion of all forms of new and renewable energy for sustainable development, including solar-thermal, photovoltaic, biomass, wind, hydro, tidal, ocean and geothermal forms, could make a significant contribution towards the achievement of sustainable development and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Acknowledging* that increased use of new and renewable sources of energy could offer important options for the provision of both energy for sustainable development and increased access to modern energy services,

"*Noting* that, in addition to increasing the efficiency of energy production and use, expanding the use of new and renewable sources of energy and advanced clean technology offers options that could improve global environmental conditions,

"*Noting also* that the global demand for energy continues to rise, while recognizing that the share of energy derived from new and renewable resources remains considerably below its significant potential, and underscoring in this regard the need to tap all new and renewable sources of energy,

"*Emphasizing* the need for the provision of adequate, stable and predictable financial resources and transfer of advanced technology to developing countries for providing efficient and wider use of energy sources, in particular new and renewable sources of energy,

"*Acknowledging* that the Commission on Sustainable Development continues to play a pivotal role as a forum for discussion, review and proposing policy options and possible actions on the issue of energy for sustainable development,

"*Noting* the contribution that the regional economic commissions can make in promoting new and renewable sources of energy,

"*Welcoming* efforts by Governments and institutions that have embarked on policies and programmes that seek to expand the use of new and renewable energy for sustainable development, and recognizing the contributions of regional initiatives as well as of institutions in supporting the efforts of countries, in particular developing countries, in this respect,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Reaffirms* the need for the full implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation as the intergovernmental framework for energy for sustainable development;

"3. *Emphasizes* the need to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy for sustainable development, and takes into consideration the diversity of situations, national policies and specific needs of developing countries;

"4. *Also emphasizes* the need to intensify research and development in support of energy for sustainable development, which will require increased commitment on the part of all stakeholders, including Governments and the private sector, to deploy financial and human resources for accelerating research efforts;

"5. *Calls upon* Governments, as well as relevant regional and international organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to combine, as appropriate, the increased use of renewable energy resources, more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources, which could meet the growing need for energy services in the longer term to achieve sustainable development;

"6. *Encourages* national and regional initiatives on new and renewable energies to promote access to energy, including new and renewable sources of energy, for the poorest and to improve energy efficiency and conservation by resorting to a mix of available technologies, taking into full account the provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation concerning energy for sustainable development;

"7. *Calls upon* Governments to take further action to mobilize the provision of financial resources, technology transfer, capacity-building and the diffusion of environmentally sound technologies, as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

"8. *Reiterates its call* for all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to support, as appropriate, efforts aimed at the development of the energy sector in developing countries on the basis of environment-friendly new and renewable sources of energy of demonstrated viability, while taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries, and to assist in the attainment of the levels of investment necessary to expand energy supplies beyond urban areas;

"9. *Recognizes* the needs of Africa in the area of new and renewable energy, and calls upon the international community to support the efforts of the African countries in promoting the production and use of new and renewable sources of energy;

"10. *Calls upon* the international community to support the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries and the small island developing States in their development of energy resources, including new and renewable energy, inter alia, through financial and technical assistance;

"11. *Takes note of and encourages* ongoing activities related to the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy within the United Nations system;

"12. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to raise awareness of the importance of energy for sustainable development, including the need for the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy and of the increased role they can play in the global energy supply, particularly in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;

"13. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote the mobilization of stable and predictable financial and technical assistance and funding and to enhance the effectiveness and the full utilization of existing international funds for the effective implementation of national and regional high-priority projects in the area of renewable sources of energy;

"14. *Stresses* that the wider use and exploration of available and additional renewable sources of energy require technology transfer and diffusion on a global scale, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;

"15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

"16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development', the sub-item entitled 'Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy'."

3. At its 31st meeting, on 5 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy" (A/C.2/62/L.44), submitted by the Vice-Chairperson, Melanie Santizo-Sandoval (Guatemala), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.19 (see A/C.2/62/SR.31).

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications (see A/C.2/62/SR.31).

5. Also at the same meeting, the representative of France, in his capacity as facilitator, made oral corrections to the draft resolution (see A/C.2/62/SR.31).

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.44, as orally corrected (see para. 9).

7. Also at the same meeting, following the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Portugal (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union, and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; Iceland; members of the European Economic Area; as well as Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine), Belarus, Croatia and Serbia (see A/C.2/62/SR.31).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.44, draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.19 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/7 of 16 October 1998, 54/215 of 22 December 1999, 55/205 of 20 December 2000, 56/200 of 21 December 2001 and 58/210 of 23 December 2003 on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, and 60/199 of 22 December 2005, on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Noting that the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 made a contribution to raising awareness of the increased role that new and renewable sources of energy can play in the global energy supply,

Reiterating the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[2] and of Agenda 21[3] and recalling the recommendations and conclusions contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")[4] concerning energy for sustainable development,

Recalling the holding of the Beijing International Renewable Energy Conference on 7 and 8 November 2005, in the follow-up to the International Conference for Renewable Energies, held in Bonn, Germany, from 1 to 4 June 2004, and noting the offer of the Government of the United States of America to convene the Washington International Renewable Energy Conference from 6 to 8 March 2008,

Welcoming initiatives that aim to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services for sustainable development in order to contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Emphasizing that the increased use and promotion of all forms of new and renewable energy for sustainable development, including solar-thermal, photovoltaic, biomass, wind, hydro, tidal, ocean and geothermal forms, could make a significant contribution towards the achievement of sustainable development and

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[1] See resolution 60/1.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Acknowledging that increased use of new and renewable sources of energy could offer important options for the provision of energy for sustainable development and increased access to modern energy services,

Noting that, in addition to increasing the efficiency of energy production and use, expanding the use of new and renewable sources of energy and advanced clean energy technology offers options that could improve global and local environmental conditions,

Recognizing the contributions of new and renewable sources of energy to the reduction of greenhouse gases and addressing climate change, which poses serious risks and challenges,

Noting that the global demand for energy continues to rise, while recognizing that the share of energy derived from new and renewable resources remains considerably below its significant potential, and underscoring in this regard the need to tap new and renewable sources of energy,

Emphasizing the need to take further action to mobilize the provision of adequate financial resources, of sufficient quality and arriving in a timely manner, as well as the transfer of advanced technology to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for providing efficient and wider use of energy sources, in particular new and renewable sources of energy,

Reaffirming that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing the need for the creation of an enabling environment at all levels for investment and sustained financing,

Acknowledging that the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council continue to play a pivotal role as forums for the discussion of new and renewable sources of energy and sustainable development,

Welcoming efforts by Governments and institutions that have embarked on policies and programmes that seek to expand the use of new and renewable energy for sustainable development, and recognizing the contributions of regional initiatives, institutions and regional economic commissions in supporting the efforts of countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in this respect,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Reaffirms* the need for the full implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation[4] as the intergovernmental framework for energy for sustainable development;

3. *Emphasizes* the need to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services and resources for sustainable development, and takes into consideration the

[5] A/62/208.

diversity of situations, national policies and specific needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

4. *Also emphasizes* the need to intensify research and development in support of energy for sustainable development, which will require increased commitment on the part of Governments and all other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, including the private sector, civil society and international organizations, to deploy financial and human resources for accelerating research efforts;

5. *Calls upon* Governments, as well as relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to combine, as appropriate, the increased use of new and renewable energy resources, more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources, which could meet the growing need for energy services in the longer term to achieve sustainable development;

6. *Encourages* global, regional and national initiatives on new and renewable energies to promote access to energy, including new and renewable sources of energy, for the poorest and to improve energy efficiency and conservation by resorting to a mix of available technologies, taking fully into account the provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation concerning energy for sustainable development;

7. *Calls upon* Governments to take further action to mobilize the provision of financial resources, technology transfer, capacity-building and the diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

8. *Calls upon* the international community to support the efforts of the African countries in promoting the development, production and use of new and renewable sources of energy, recognizing the special needs of Africa for reliable and affordable energy supplies and services;

9. *Also calls upon* the international community to support the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries and the small island developing States in their efforts to develop and utilize energy resources, including new and renewable energy, inter alia, through financial and technical assistance;

10. *Reiterates its call* for all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to continue to support, as appropriate, efforts aimed at the development of the energy sector in developing countries and countries with economies in transition on the basis of environment-friendly new and renewable sources of energy of demonstrated viability, while taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries, and to assist in the attainment of the levels of investment necessary to expand energy supplies, including beyond urban areas;

11. *Notes and encourages* ongoing activities related to the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy within the United Nations system;

12. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to raise awareness of the importance of energy for sustainable development, including the need for the

promotion of new and renewable sources of energy and of the increased role they can play in the global energy supply, particularly in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;

13. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote the mobilization of financial resources, in a stable and predictable manner, and technical assistance, and to enhance the effectiveness and the full utilization of existing international funds for the effective implementation of national and regional high-priority projects in the area of new and renewable sources of energy;

14. *Stresses* that the wider use and exploration of available and additional new and renewable sources of energy require technology transfer and diffusion on a global scale, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy".